U.S. Application No. 10/667,543
Amendment and Response dated May 15, 2006
Response to Non-Final Office Action dated February 15, 2006

REMARKS

The Non-Final Office Action (hereinafter the Action) mailed February 15, 2006 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application and currently stand rejected.

Objection To The Abstract

The Action objected to the Abstract for exceeding 150 words. The Abstract has been amended for compliance with MPEP §608.01(b).

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Action rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,768,158 to Adler, *et al.* (hereinafter *Adler*). The rejection of these claims is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, "determining that the list of cells has a consistent format; and automatically extending the consistent format to include the previously blank newly edited cell." Format, as used in claim 1, refers to background color, font face, borders, and the like (See Specification, page 5, lines 17-19, page 5, lines 22-25, page 16-20, and so on).

Adler teaches an electronic spreadsheet, providing a user with improved data processing capability, that includes displaying a visual presentation to the user, the visual presentation including a matrix. The electronic spreadsheet according to *Adler* permits the user to input and manipulate data, through the use of standard computer input and pointing devices (i.e., keyboard, mouse, trackball, joystick, touchscreen, etc.), and to view the results of the data processing performed by the electronic spreadsheet, through the use of a standard CRT display. Further, the electronic spreadsheet of the present invention includes a user-

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definable visual presentation that functions as a front-end to an object-oriented extensible software scripting language (*Adler*, Abstract and column 3, line 64 - column 4, line 9).

Format as used in *Adler* refers to graphs, charts, and histograms (*Adler*, column 11, lines 22-27, column 14, lines 33-35). In fact, there is no mention of cell formats such as background color, borders, font face, and the like, throughout *Adler*. Furthermore, *Adler* discloses that the plurality of visual formats are preferably user-selectable (*Adler*, column 5, lines 31-32).

Thus, *Adler* does not teach or suggest determining that the list of cells has a consistent format; and automatically extending the consistent format to include the previously blank newly edited cell, where the format refers to background color, font face, borders, and the like. Accordingly, *Adler* fails to teach, disclose, or suggest each and every feature specified in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable and the rejection of this claim should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent claim 1. Thus, these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Furthermore, independent claim 8 includes similar limitation as claim 1, and is allowable at least for the same reasons. Claims 9 and 10 depend from independent claim 8, therefore, based on the foregoing the rejection of claims 9 and 10 should also be withdrawn.

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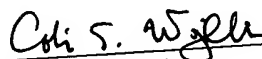Response to Non-Final Office Action dated February 15, 2006

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date are hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, PC

Date: May 15, 2006

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